



# MINUTES ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

February 9, 2009

7:30 P.M.

City Hall, Council Chambers  
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Approved  
9 MAR 09  
EJV

## **MEMBERS**

Owen Lindauer, Chair  
Robin Wood, Vice Chair  
Vernon Danielsen  
Donna Chasen  
Lisa Peverill

## **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Barry Waldman

## **CITY STAFF**

Erik Nelson, Senior Planner  
Sheree Waddy, Recording Secretary

Mr. Lindauer called the Architectural Review Board to order at 7:30 p.m.

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Mr. Lindauer determined that a quorum was present. Mr. Nelson stated that public notice requirements had been met.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lindauer asked if there were additional items for the agenda.

Mr. Lindauer asked to add under Other Business Item 4: Virginia Senate Bill 1416.

Mr. Nelson asked to add under Other Business the following items:

Item 5 – City Council public hearing regarding expanding appeal process

Item 6 – Update on 1317 Charles Street

Mr. Danielsen made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Ms. Wood seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Mr. Lindauer asked if there were any changes to the January 12, 2009 meeting minutes.

Mr. Lindauer asked that Item 9 under Other Business be amended to note that Mr. Nelson coordinated a response with Mr. Lindauer and emailed the Board's comments to the City Manager.

Ms. Wood made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Chasen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Lindauer asked if any board member had a conflict of interest or had participated in ex parte communications on any of the agenda items. No one said that they had.

### **APPLICATIONS – REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **1. 620 Caroline Street (Inns of Historic Fredericksburg) - Signs**

The applicant was represented by Rich Palmer (co-owner). Mr. Palmer said he wanted to clarify two items. First, that the two upper signs would be 13 inches deep instead of 5 inches as previously stated. He was informed by his sign contractor that to make the sign 5 inches deep would be cost prohibitive because it would require a custom mold. Second, the brass lettering on the Caroline Street elevation would be externally lit. He said they had not decided on the lighting, but when they did they would present it to the Board for review.

James Lawrence, 802 Caroline Street, thanked Mr. Palmer for being present to answer questions and welcomed him to downtown.

Mr. Danielsen said that considering the problems with the lighting at the firehouse office building on Princess Anne Street, he would like some clarification on the policy for what is appropriate for internally versus externally lit signs.

Mr. Lindauer said that issue was discussed during the informal review of this application last month. He then explained that there was no prohibition against backlit signs in the ordinance. He said the Board agreed that in the context of new construction that their sensitivity to backlit signs would change, particularly in the sense that this was not a historic building, but a new building in a more lively downtown and with a need for lighting to guide guests.

Mr. Danielsen thanked the Chair for his explanation. He said it was important for the ARB to be consistent and not leave the applicants questioning the reason and logic behind Board decisions.

Mr. Lindauer thanked the applicant for working with the Board and being sensitive to the historic setting of the hotel. He said he found the sign package to be very sensitive and restrained in size. He said that it was reasonable for new construction to have new signs that will be visible. He said he was not concerned about the fourth floor doors, seeing them as an opportunity of construction.

Ms. Wood said she found the proposed signs, the fourth floor door modification, and lights to be architecturally compatible with the historic aspects of the Historic District and made a motion to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Danielsen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **809 Princess Anne Street (City of Fredericksburg) – Exterior alterations**
3. **209 Caroline Street (Cindy and Tim Hughes) – Exterior alterations**

Mr. Nelson explained that the applicants for Items 2 and 3 had requested postponements, but because the applications had been advertised the Board should hear public comments.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Peverill made a motion to table Items 2 and 3 for further consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Ms. Chasen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Other Business**

1. Planning Commission agenda – Mr. Nelson noted that the Planning Commission would be hearing applications for the Van Perroy project for converting the apartments on Sophia Street, which the ARB already approved.
2. National Register Nomination for Idlewild – Mr. Nelson said the National Register nomination had been submitted, noting that the PIF had been drafted by Raymond Herlong and Donna Chasen. He said that the review in Richmond had noted that due to the fire there was not enough architectural fabric for an architectural nomination. The State Board suggested that the nomination be based on historical associations. He added that it was suggested there was not enough data for an archaeological nomination. Mr. Lindauer said he disagreed with that. He recommended that the nomination be reviewed by an archaeologist at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and suggested that the nomination be included for its archaeological importance. Mr. Nelson said he would coordinate the response letter with Mr. Lindauer. The Board expressed its support of the nomination.
3. Work Session, February 23, 2009 – Mr. Nelson suggested rescheduling the training work session until a new member was appointed. The Board agreed.
4. Virginia Senate Bill 1416 – Mr. Lindauer said that the Senate recently passed Senate Bill 1416 which would amend the State Code in regard to historic preservation and archaeology. He explained that the bill would require an applicant to submit documentation for any development of property known to have historical or archaeological significance, in order to preserve or accommodate the historical or archaeological resources. Mr. Lindauer said that he would keep the Board apprised of the bill's status.
5. City Council public hearing regarding expanding the appeal process – Mr. Nelson informed the Board that the Council would hear public comment regarding this item on February 10<sup>th</sup>. He said both the ARB and the Planning Commission recommended that Council not expand the appeal process. Mr. Nelson said that if any of the Board members wanted to speak at the Council meeting they could. Mr. Danielsen said he would attend.
6. Update on 1317 Charles Street – Mr. Nelson said that an engineer had confirmed that the structure had slid off its foundation and the City has asked for its demolition. Ms. Chasen asked if the structure will be photo documented. Mr. Nelson said that Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. wanted to photo document the structure.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Ron B. Wood  
Owen Lindauer, Chair  
Vice chair